these plants have the advantage of shorter gestation period. The Government have formulated the Liquid Fuel Policy for the purpose and have decided to allow development of 12000 MW of power generation capacity based on liquid fuels in the Country. State-wise allocation of this capacity has been made by the Ministry of Power on the basis of additional requirements and energy and peaking shortage of States.

The power capacities based on liquid fuel, allocated to the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are 1160 MW and 1500MW respectively. Allocation of liquid fuel is made to the power projects in the States on recommendation of the Ministry of Power and is limited to the power capacity allocated to the respective States. States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have recommended projects far in excess of allocated capacities. Ministry of Power has been requested to reprioritise and rationalise the recommendations so as to keep the allocations within the sanctioned capacity.

Grievances of Workmen of ONGC

4361. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether appeals committee of ONGC, vide No. AC/101/93-CRBC, dated 10th April, 1996 had taken any action on the grievances of workmen;

(b) if so, what are their grievances and number of persons involved;

(c) whether appeals committee had agreed to the recommendations as submitted to member (Personnel) on 13th May, 1993;

(d) if so, what are the details of the recommendations and what action ONGC has taken so far to redress the grievances; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take for protection of their natural rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representationists want their appointment in ONGC in the higher post of Store Keeper Gd. II instead of Store Keeper Gd. III, eversince their initial appointment in November, 1980.

Although five individuals were involved, only three of the individuals had taken up their grievance with the Appeals Committee.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The recommendation is that discrimination alleged by the representationist vis-a-vis Department candidates has some substance; and if his contention is upheld and the case reviewed, four other similarly placed ex-Apprentices should also be extended the same treatment. It has not been found feasible by the Management of ONGC to accept the recommendation.

(e) Rights of the workmen of ONGC are protected as per the rules.

OIDB Assistance to Assam

4362. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of crude cess collected during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the contribution of Assam towards crude cess each year, against which the amount of assistance is provided by Oil Industry Development Board for the development of refineries in Assam;

(c) whether Government propose to provide adequate funds for development of refineries in Assam through Oil Industry Development Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) The Information is given in the en-

closed Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The information is given in the enclosed Statement-II (*See* below)

(c) and (d) Government provides fund for development of refineries thorugh OIDB and other means depending on several factors such as commercial viability of the project, avilability of funds with OIDB as well as internal and extra-budgetary resources of the Companies. Accordingly, refineries in Assam may be provided funds depending upon the said factors.

Statement-I

Collection of Cess on Crude Oil

(Rs./Crores)

Year	*Amount*
1993-94	2160.89
1994-95	2548.97
1995-96	2800.63
Total	7510.49

Statement-II

*Contribution of Assam towards Crude Cess**

(Rs./Crores)

Year	*Amount*
1993-94	434.85
1994-95	431.62
1995-96	437.20

Statement regarding OIDB assistance to Refineries in Assam

(Rs./Crores)

Year	*Amount*
1993-94	50.00
1994-95	102.44
1995-96	251.49
Total	403.93

*The statement of collection of cess has been provided by the Office of Comissioner of Central Excise and Customs, Shillong.

Pak participation in India-Iran Gas pipeline Project

4363. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 84 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1997 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan had earlier refused to permit the proposed India-Iran Gas pipeline to pass through that country's territorial waters but is now keen to participate in the project, as reported in the Times of India dated the 24th February, 1997;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether any tripartite talks between India, Iran and Pakistan are likely to take place in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) The Government of Pakistan have not yet given their consent to the pipeline route survey for the proposed Iran-India gas pipeline through the Exclusive Economic Zone of Pakistan. Pakistan has not formally expressed any interest in participating in the project.

(b) The Government of Pakistan is being requested to expedite clearance of the pipeline route survey.

(c) No tripartite talks have been scheduled yet.

Supply of gas to Ramgarh Power Plant

4364. SHRI RAMDAS AGRWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed for gas prices for various power plants in the country, particularly the Ramgarh Gas Power Plant in Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan;

(b) whether it is a fact that the gas